

**“Bearing One Another’s Burdens”**  
April 24, 2016

*“Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other’s burdens, and in this way fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:1-2 NLT*

**CORE:** Loving one another as Jesus does means getting—and staying—**INVOLVED.** “Bearing with” speaks of the “long haul.”

**1. PARTNERING with them.**

*“Fellowship (koinonia)” (Acts 2:42)—to move beyond lightweight association→PARTNERSHIP & DEEP INVOLVEMENT*

- (New English Bible) *“Sharing together in the common life”*
- Not a casual connection—sharing life together

**2. Identifying with their PAIN.**

- So involved w/ you—I know what you’re struggling with
- Through trust (and invitation), I join you in your struggle!
- This will not work in relationships that are shallow/superficial
- Only works in relationships that are real & open

**“...and so fulfill the law of Christ”—more than a “rule”—an on-going principle; what His internal world is like! (Lit.- *“walk fully in Jesus’ culture”*)**

- The **“burden”** is “sin.” (Something said or done “missed the mark”)
- What did Jesus do with sin?
- See Isaiah 53:4-5 & 1 Peter 2:24
  - He treated our sin as if it was His own.
  - He “carried them” even though He had nothing to do with them.
  - He cared enough to help us overcome it!

**NOTE:** Though we cannot repent FOR them—we can exhort, encourage, and pray for them. We can help them move sin out of their life!

**NOTE:** God judged Ham (Noah’s son) harsher than he judged Noah for getting drunk and lying around in the buff! Why? Because Ham exposed, shamed, & blamed—rather than moving to honor & restore his father.

### 3. PRESSING THROUGH our fears.

(1964) “Bystander Syndrome”—fear of getting involved.

#### a. Fear of VULNERABILITY

- To connect with someone else in pain—we also face our own pain
- For them to “let you in”—you must also “let them in”
- To get “close”—you must be willing to “disclose”
- Face the fact that: “I might get hurt again!”

#### b. Fear of FAILURE

- “What if I can’t help? Or what if I make things worse?”
- Limiting thought: “I’m not \_\_\_\_\_ enough. Someone else will help them.”

#### c. SELF-FOCUS (the root of all fears)

- It’s not my fault! It’s not my problem!
- They got themselves into this mess—they can get themselves out!

*“His perfect, ever-maturing love eradicates all fears—every one of them!”  
(1 John 4:18 Paraphrase)*

### 4. PRACTICALS

#### a. PRAY

- “You who are spiritual...” (Galatians 6:1 NIV) “...you who are responsive to the guidance of the Spirit” (AMP)
- Correction is a spiritual issue—must be led/drenched by HS
- Goal of PRAYER: Connect w/ His heart & perspective (NOTE: CONNECT before you CORRECT)

#### b. REMEMBER: The GOAL is “CORRECTION”

- To “CORRECT” is not “finding fault”—but “discovering a better way”!
- HS is always after “restoring all things” (Isaiah 61; Joel 2)

#### c. With “GENTLENESS”—not SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

- Lit.- “like a surgeon setting a bone” (not a cage fighter breaking them)
- LISTEN FIRST. “He who answers before he hears [the facts]—It is folly and shame to him.” (Proverbs 18:13 AMP)

**THEN walk with them (honestly, humbly, full of faith) to JESUS—moving past the past to the place of OVERCOMING!**

**NOTE: Be willing to be BOTH a GIVER AND A RECEIVER OF CORRECTIVE MINISTRY!**

**NOTE: We ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE ANOTHER!**

